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β , (ii) translocating into the nucleus, and (iii) importing a cargo protein; the method including:

B1
conclude
(a) bringing into contact Importin α and a test compound;

(b) determining said one or more Importin α activities in the presence and absence of a CBP ('CREB binding protein') polypeptide which acetylates Importin α , thereby determining the effect of said polypeptide on said one or more activities, and;

(c) comparing said effect in the presence of test compound with said effect in absence of test compound,

a difference in said effect in the presence relative to the absence of test compound being indicative that said test compound is an agent which affects said one or more Importin α activities.

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

B2
4. (Amended) An assay method for identifying an agent which modulates interaction between CBP and Importin α , the method including:

(a) bringing into contact a first substance including a CBP polypeptide or peptide, a second substance including an Importin α polypeptide or peptide, and a test compound

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under conditions in which, in the absence of the test compound being an inhibitor, the first and second substances interact;

(b) determining interaction between the first and second substances, and;

(c) comparing said interaction in the presence of test compound with said interaction the absence of test compound,

B2
Conf'
a difference said interaction in the presence relative to the absence of test compound being indicative that said test compound is an agent which modulates interaction between CBP and Importin α .

5. (Amended) An assay method for identifying an agent which affects one or more activities of Importin α selected from the group consisting of (i) binding Importin β , (ii) translocating into the nucleus, and (iii) importing a cargo protein, the method comprising:

(a) bringing into contact CBP and a test compound,

(b) determining CBP acetyltransferase activity in the presence and absence of the test compound; and

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(c) comparing said CBP acetyltransferase activity in the presence of test compound with said activity in the absence of test compound,

a decrease in CBP acetyltransferase activity in the presence relative to the absence of the compound being indicative that the test compound is an agent which affects said one or more activities of Importin α .

B2
Conclude

8. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein a test compound which inhibits CBP acetyltransferase activity is further tested for ability to affect an activity of Importin α selected from the group consisting of (i) binding Importin β , (ii) translocating into the nucleus, and (iii) importing a cargo protein.

B4

9. (Amended) An assay method for identifying an agent which interacts with a region of CBP or a region of Importin α , which region of CBP interacts with Importin α and which region of Importin α interacts with CBP, a said agent which interacts with said region of CBP or said region of Importin α being a candidate modulator of interaction between CBP and Importin α , the method including:

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B4
Conclusion
(a) bringing into contact a substance which includes a CBP peptide which interacts with Importin α , or which includes an Importin α peptide which interacts with CBP, and a test compound; and

(b) determining interaction between said substance and the test compound,

the presence of interaction between said substance and the test compound being indicative that the test compound is a said agent.

B5
10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, claim 4, claim 5 or claim 9 further comprising formulating a said agent into a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

The specification was amended to include sequence identifiers at page 3 in the Amendment filed September 18, 2001.